

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-12

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

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FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY SISCO

E . O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: SECRETARY' S REMARKS TO SENIOR BUSINESS EXECUTIVES
CONFERENCE

FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS FROM SECRETARY ROGERS APRIL 19 TALK
AND Q. AND A. BEFORE NATIONAL FOREIGN POLICY CONFERENCE FOR
SENIOR BUSINESS EXECUTIVES. APPEARANCE WAS ON BACKGROUND
BASIS EXCEPT FOR VIETNAM PORTION.

QUOTE: SECRETARY ROGERS: TURNING FIRST TO THE MIDDLE EAST
-- AS YOU PROBABLY KNOW, THE UNITED NATIONS SECURITY
COUNCIL IS MEETING TODAY ON THE COMPLAINT BY LEBANON
AGAINST ISRAEL. IN THAT UNITED NATIONS MEETING WE ARE WORK-
ING FOR A RESOLUTION WHICH WILL CONDEMN ALL MIDDLE EASTERN
VIOLENCE. WHAT WE CANNOT ACCEPT IS A RESOLUTION WHICH
WOULD FOCUS ON ISRAELI ACTIONS AND IGNORE THE KIND OF
TERRORISM WHICH PRODUCED THE DEATHS IN MUNICH, THE MURDER
OF OUR DIPLOMATS IN THE SUDAN, AND THE ATTACKS ON INNOCENT
PEOPLE EVERYWHERE. THIS CYCLE OF VIOLENCE THAT HAS
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OCCURRED IN RECENT MONTHS HAS AGAIN REMINDED US HOW FRAGILE THE PEACE IS IN THE MIDDLE EAST. ABOVE ALL, WE MUST USE EVERY EFFORT WE CAN TO END THE CURRENT WAVE OF TERRORISM AND REACTION BEFORE IT ESCALATES INTO A NEW MAJOR CRISIS.

WE HAVE ALREADY HAD TO REACT STRONGLY TO THE BLATANTLY FALSE ACCUSATIONS THAT OUR EMBASSY IN LEBANON WAS INVOLVED IN THE ISRAELI ATTACKS IN THAT COUNTRY. WE WILL BE MAKING A MAXIMUM EFFORT OVER THE NEXT FEW WEEKS TO PERSUADE ALL GOVERNMENTS IN THE AREA TO HELP DEFUSE THIS DISTURBING SITUATION.

TERRORISM WILL IN THE END ACHIEVE NOTHING BUT GREATER VIOLENCE. BUT WE DO NOT INTEND TO LET THE GROWTH OF TERRORISM AND THE FEAR OF TERRORISM DETER US FROM OUR PURPOSE OF HELPING THE ARAB STATES AND ISRAEL MOVE TOWARDS A PEACE SETTLEMENT. SOME SAY THAT SUCH A SETTLEMENT IS IMPOSSIBLE, AND CERTAINLY RECENT EVENTS HAVE MADE IT MORE DIFFICULT. BUT THEY HAVE ALSO UNDERLINED THE INHERENT STABILITY OF A SITUATION IN WHICH PROGRESS IS NOT BEING MADE TOWARDS PEACE. AND SOMETHING HAS TO BE DONE. AN INTERIM ARRANGEMENT FOR THE REOPENING OF THE SUEZ CANAL OFFERS THE ONLY OPPORTUNITY WE NOW BELIEVE TO BE FEASIBLE FOR THE PARTIES IN THE DISPUTE TO BEGIN TO MOVE TOWARDS A SETTLEMENT BASED ON THE 1967 UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION. WE ARE THEREFORE CONTINUING TO MOVE IN THIS DIRECTION.

MR. WOHLSTETTER: HOW DO WE PROPOSE TO RESPOND TO THE STATEMENT OF THE SAUDIS IN THIS MORNING'S PRESS THAT THEY WILL TIE FUTURE OIL DELIVERIES TO A CHANGE IN OUR POLICIES IN THE MIDDLE EAST?

SECRETARY ROGERS: WELL, WE DON'T PROPOSE TO RESPOND TO IT AT ALL PUBLICLY. WE HAVE A LOT OF PRIVATE DISCUSSIONS WITH THE SAUDIS. WE ARE ON THE BEST OF TERMS WITH THE SAUDIS. AND JUST AS I HOPE THEY DON'T FEEL COMPELLED TO RESPOND TO EVERYTHING THAT EVERY AMERICAN OFFICIAL SAYS PUBLICLY, I DON'T FEEL THAT IT IS APPROPRIATE TO RESPOND PUBLICLY TO WHAT ANY INDIVIDUAL MAY SAY.

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OUR POLICY IS NOT BASED ON THREATS OR THE DANGER OF

THREATS OR THINGS OF THAT KIND. WE THINK THESE THINGS THROUGH PRETTY CAREFULLY, AND OUR POLICY IS ONE THAT WE HAVE THOUGHT THROUGH CAREFULLY, AND WE ARE GOING TO MAINTAIN IT.

FIRST OF ALL, I DON'T -- CAN I SAY SOMETHING OFF THE RECORD?

MR. ARMSTRONG: YOU ARE ON BACKGROUND.

SECRETARY ROGERS: I WANT TO BE OFF THE RECORD. WE DON'T BELIEVE THE THREAT. THIS IS OFF THE RECORD. END QUOTE.
ROGERS

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